**Nile Basin Development Challenge (NBDC) Strategies Project (N2)**

**4th Round Innovation Platform Meeting**

**Diga Woreda**

**Venue**: Diga Woreda Administration Office

**Time**: 9:30am – 5:00pm

**Date**: 24/05/2012

Lead Facilitator: Aberra Adie

Assistant Facilitator: Fufa Takele (HUNDEE)

Minutes: Habtamu Adenew (WU)

**Agenda:**

1. Registration and introduction of the participants
2. Refreshing memories on the last IP meeting and update on assignment
3. Introduction about the ITM project and area of involvement with the IP
4. Development of action plan for the IP action research

Summary

This particular meeting had two main objectives. One is update information and action on the development of the draft proposal for the Innovation fund of the IP action research and the second one is the development of action plan for the IP action research. Introducing the ITM project and gathering comments and feed backs from the IP members was also part of the deliberations of the meeting. There have been new faces especially from EECMY, HUNDEE and WU who are among the core members of the IP but haven’t shown up for the past few meetings. The availability of these members boosted the encouragement of the rest of the members for future joint activities. They also made quite significant contributions during the discussion times and some of them were even able to share role of meeting facilitation. The woreda administrator and the head of Office of Agriculture were on other government meetings and so couldn’t attend the IP meeting. In general, the meeting has been very productive and all the members including those who showed up for the first time showed great aspiration and commitment for the joint action research and any other activities that the IP will have in the future. The meeting took the whole day with an hour of lunch break.

**1. Registration and Introductions of the participants**

At the beginning of the meeting each of the participants were registered before introducing themselves. Then Mr. Aberra Adie (ILRI staff) has made an opening speech by introducing the day’s agenda followed by self-introductions of participants. IP meeting.

**2. Refreshing memories on the last IP meeting and update on draft proposal development -assignment of the core committee members**

Mr. Aberra Adie has briefly reminded the deliberations of the last IP meeting and invited Mr. Shibiru (on behalf of the core committee) to give a brief summary on the advancement of the draft proposal. Mr. Shibiru has confessed that it was not possible for most core members to meet and develop the proposal. It was only him and Ato Dereje from the Livestock Agency who were able to meet briefly and drafted preliminary ideas in the area of the project. He then presented the advancement of the draft proposal based on the template sent by ILRI. Discussions were made during the presentation under each topic and additional ideas have been built in to the template.

**What is the critical landscape-level rainwater management challenge which your proposal will address?**

Land degradation (soil erosion) is the primary/key issue – deforestation and improper grazing system are primary causes. In addition, termite infestation and grass land shortage (lack of pasture) were some of the problems identified

**Why was this chosen as a priority?**

Past and recent engagements with the community and baseline information collected by NBDC and partners point that these issues are among the top priorities of the area. Moreover, research/development and extension experiences show that similar interventions could potentially alleviate the problem.

**What to do? Interventions (including new approaches, technical and institutional options) to be piloted**

* Implement appropriate soil and water conservation measurements where the fodder species are to be planted or use the plots where physical measurements are already in place
* Since there are traditional approaches for termite control, it is also important to look for those alternatives to upgrade their termite control efficiency – termite control is necessary at the initial stage for the project’s plots where the different fodder intervention options will be piloted. It is anticipated that once the plots are established, they will take care of themselves.
* Searching for alternative of livestock feeding systems – improved fodder has never been introduced in the area and this is a high time to avail the options to the farmers for them to make decision

**Who are involved?**

* ILRI/IWMI – facilitation and funding, sourcing of forage seeds, trainings
* Woreda Office of Agriculture – Overall coordination and facilitation
* Woreda Livestock agency - Livestock feeding management, improved breeds, AI, Vet
* WU – Documentation and M & E, supply of fodder seedlings
* EECMY – Experience sharing and learning
* Woreda Admin – Community mobilization
* Land Administration – Policy development and implementation
* Cooperatives – Input supply, forming farmer user groups/associations
* Kebele Admin – Implementation
* Framers – Implementation, M & E (Youth – useful in implementation of activities on ground, women – good source information on water stress periods)
* Hundee – can participate in livelihoods activities and facilitation of meetings/trainings

**What can we achieve from this project (Expected out-put)?**

* Rehabilitated Natural Resource – flora and fauna
* Improved Soil fertility
* Improved and sustainable production of crops and livestock

**How can we take this project into action?**

Two approaches have been discussed to be considered: 1. Backyard and intercropped fodder development on individual farms (about 20 farms) and 2. Rehabilitation and development of grazing areas (these can be individual grazing plots but where there are many farmers (about 20) having adjacent grazing lands). This arrangement will be good for combined/common effort which could be out scaled at larger scales.

Initial area assessment and community discussion to create awareness of the project and need assessment of the community has to be done before embarking on more things. Secondly, farmer identification in consultation with the local administration and development agents has to be done in the two selected villages (Dembi and Dapo). Some of the farmers’ selection criteria include: Voluntariness, Capacity (land, livestock), type of livestock (both dairy and fattening to be considered though currently milk is not sold in market traditionally in the area), and gender, age (inclusion of good number of women and young farmers). FGD with the selected farmers for in-depth assessment of need and choice of intervention approach will be done once the farmer selection has been made.

Search for potential fodder options and planting materials has to continue in order to buy time. Wollega University has some seedlings in their nursery at Gudru. ILRI might help in sourcing seeds of recommended forages.

Inclusion of video and photograph documentation in the M & E process was mentioned to be considered from the initial stage of the project.

**Where to act and Why?**

Arjo PA site was selected for its high level of soil degradation, deforestation and termite infestation. The limitation of grazing land/pasture in the area is also one of the serious issues. Therefore, it is anticipated that clear impact of the intervention can be seen in the area. Two villages within Arjo PA have been selected for the intervention. 1. Dembi village for backyard fodder development &/or intercropping fodder with cereals and 2. Dapo village for grazing land rehabilitation/development. It has been felt that dealing with communal grazing land management at this stage will not be feasible for it has to take in to account many factors like policy, collective action, etc. However, what could be learned from the experiences of individual grazing land management/development could be scaled out to communal land with some additional elements.

Discussion was concluded with appreciation to the team and reminder of exhaustively using information on the existing cultural practices and any development activity in relation to the agenda of the project. Taking in to consideration the discussion questions above, action plan for the activities to be implemented in this season have been developed.

**3. Introduction about the ITM project and area of involvement with the IP**

The status of integrated termite management project in Diga was presented by Mr. Habtamu Adenew of Wollega University. Ato Habtamu explained how the project has evolved from personal communication of Professor Fekadu of Wollega University with staff of ILRI/IWMI which initiated frequent professional visits of ILRI scientists to the site and also the baseline study of the strategies project of the NBDC pointed out that termite is among the outstanding problems of Diga woreda. He also mentioned that two kebeles (PAs) Lelisa Dimtu and Bikila which are within the NBDC target watershed have been selected for the project’s work. Two experiments: 1. Soil fertility management and cropping systems where legume intercropping with cereal crops will be administered at different treatment levels and 2. Evaluation of forage grasses and legumes for termite management and rehabilitation of degraded rangeland where 4 grass species and 3 legume species and 2 fodder tree species will be used as treatment at different levels. Four farmer groups (10-15 farmers each) will be established in each kebele. Wollega University plays the leadership role with scientists from various institutions like ILRI, IWMI, Makarare University, etc. who are participating in the project. Each development of the project will be reported back to the IP for information and comments.

Some of the issued raised by the participants include:

* “Chomo” grass is good for highly degraded areas but may create soil compaction initially but eventually can improve soil moisture content. So try to consider the impact of this grass before you implement it
* Care should also be provided for the control of the treatment plots
* Did the project make assessment of past and existing termite management practices by various institutions and the traditional treatments in the country and in the woreda?
* Chemical treatments may be dangerous and it may cause ecosystem imbalance
* Why is it that termite infestation is higher in lower areas?
* Does soil type have impact on termite infestation?
* Is the project intending to reduce or eliminate termites?
* What institutional engagements does the project envisage to implement its plan?
* Who manages the communal grazing land trial?
* Who is/are the target utilizer/s of the research output and how?
* Using secondary data might be useful as a baseline information to start the implementation without missing the season

Discussion was rounded up with the appreciation and consent of the IP members about the initiation of the ITM project in the woreda. All participants have promised to collaborate with the project in one way or the other.

**Action plan for the IP action research project**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | | **Implementation plan** | | |
| **No** | **Main action** | **Sub-action** | **Participating members** | **Lead organization** | **Time** |
| 1 | Area Assessment and awareness creation with the community | Physical observation of the selected sites  Characterization of farming system and need assessment | ILRI, OoA, Livestock Agency, Land Administration office, EECMY, WU,BARC | Office of Agriculture, Livestock Agency, WU | Ginbot 30-Sene  1 (June 7- 8) |
| 2 | Farmer selection | Setting criteria for selection  Identifying voluntary farmers and ask their willingness to participate | Office of Agriculture (Experts, DAs, PA Admin), Livestock Agency Office | Livestock Agency, HUNDEE | Sene 4-5  (June 11-12) |
| 3 | Need assessment of the selected farmers – | FGD (Tools/Checklist to be prepared ahead of time) Is livestock feed a problem? Why? What is suggested solution? type of intervention the farmer is willing to try, etc. | Office of Agriculture, Livestock Agency, WU, EECMY | Livestock Agency, EECMY | Sene 7-8  (June 14- 15) |
| 4 | Planting plan preparation with farmers | Land allocation, Inputs ( seeds/seedlings), planting dates, planting, | OA, WU, HUNDEE, LsA, EECMY, Cooperatives Office , Land Administration | Livestock Agency,HUNDEE | Sene 7-8  (June 14- 15) |
| 5 | Training for selected farmers | Identification of trainer, Preparation of training material  Arrangement of logistics, time, venue, etc  Provide training | Livestock Agency, OoA, EECMY, WU,ILRI,BARC | Livestock Agency,BARC | Sene 19 – 20  (June 26-27) |
| 6 | Planting | Seed bed preparation, input mobilization, planting | Farmers, OoA (DAs), Livestock Agency, | Livestock Agency | Sene 21-27  (June 28- July 6) |
| 7 | Monitoring & Evaluation | Still photo, Video, PV, evaluation format and documentation | WU, Farmers, Office of Agriculture (DAs, Experts), Livestock Agency, EECMY, ILRI, BARC | WU |  |
| 8 | Field day | Planning field day: Site, invitees, objective, resources, conduct field day | All stake holders | Office of Agriculture, Livestock Agency | September/October |

**List of Participants:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S.No** | **Name** | **Institution** | **Responsibility** | **Mobile No** | **Email** |
| 1 | Dereje Kebede | Livestock dev’t & health | Office head | 0924404432 |  |
| 2 | Getachew Enkossa | Livestock dev’t & health | Expert | 0917853647 |  |
| 3 | Tsadale Birhanu | Agri. Office | Agri. Input expert | 0911833543 |  |
| 4 | Alemayehu Lema | Agri. Office | DA | 0917845663 |  |
| 5 | Tamiru Gemeda | Agri. Office | DA | 0917045237 |  |
| 6 | Geremu Amente | Agri. Office | Coffee agronomy | 0911976764 |  |
| 7 | Tesfaye Bokore | Agri. Office | SWC expert | 0922221558 |  |
| 8 | Desalegn Sori | Agri. Office | Planning expert | 0917814321 |  |
| 9 | Mengasha Itana | Agri. Office | Agronomy expert | 0917135157 |  |
| 10 | Melkamu Fikadu | Agri. Office | DA | 0917038144 |  |
| 11 | Girma Itana |  | Farmer | 0917049545 |  |
| 12 | Fufa Takele | HUNDEE | Coordinator | 0913208610 | [fufatakele@gmail.com](mailto:fufatakele@gmail.com) |
| 13 | Zerihun Morka | Agri. Office | Extension | 0917049152 |  |
| 14 | Diriba Enkosa | Co-operative | Expert | 0922224786 |  |
| 15 | Buzayehu Feyisa | Finance | Accountant | 0913122686 |  |
| 16 | Takele Gobena | Land admin. | Office head | 0917816561 |  |
| 17 | Nibre Shiferawu | Edu. Bureau office | Office head | 0917849707 |  |
| 18 | Tagay Mitiku | Agri. Office | Planning expert | 0913395529 |  |
| 19 | Gudina Lamessa | Water& mining office | Vice head | 0917134783 |  |
| 20 | Dawit Olana | EECMY-DASSC-ACO | Coordinator | 0911703059 | [dawitjilcho@yahoo.com](mailto:dawitjilcho@yahoo.com) |
| 21 | Shibiru Gurmessa |  | Team leader | 0911026757 |  |
| 22 | Habtamu Adenew | WU | Lecturer | 0913237112 | [adehab721@gmail.com](mailto:adehab721@gmail.com) |
| 23 | Abebe Mekuria | Kebele | Kebele Manager | 0921192116 |  |
| 24 | Dandi Temesgen | WU | CSES director | 0922215362 | [dangeleta@gmail.com](mailto:dangeleta@gmail.com) |
| 25 | Alemayehu Belay | ILRI | Researcher | 0911885535 | [a.belay@cgiar.org](mailto:a.belay@cgiar.org) |
| 26 | Aberra Adie | ILRI | Researcher | 0910 756003 | [a.adie@cgiar.org](mailto:a.adie@cgiar.org) |